

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177713

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EFIN, EEWT, PL, US

SUBJECT: DAS LUERS MEETING WITH POLISH DEPUTY AGRICULTURE
MINISTER ZAWODZINSKI

SUMMARY: ON JULY 11 DAS LUERS RECEIVED DEPUTY AGRICULTURE
MINISTER ZAWODZINSKI FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF U.S.-
POLISH AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION. ZAWODZINSKI, WHO IS HERE
AS LEADER OF THE POLISH DELEGATION TO THE JULY 10-11
AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP TALKS, WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI. CONVERSATION FOCUSED ON EXPANSION
OF U.S.-POLISH AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND BROADER ACCESS TO
U.S. MARKETS; FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION; CCC
CREDITS; POLAND'S NEED FOR INCREASED CONTACTS WITH U.S.
PRIVATE CORPORATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. MR. ZAWODZINSKI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE PROGRESS
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ACHIEVED IN THE JOINT-WORKING GROUP TALKS. HE STATED,
HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS "ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVED COOPERA-
TION."

HE PREDICTED THIS YEAR'S HARVESTS WOULD BE SOMEWHAT
BETTER THAN LAST YEAR'S DISASTER BUT STRESSED THAT POLAND
WOULD CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON IMPORTS OF GRAIN/FODDER. HE

REITERATED POLAND'S UNHAPPINESS WITH THE NATURE OF CCC

TERMS AND HOPED THAT THESE COULD BE MADE MORE ATTRACTIVE
IN THE FUTURE.

2. BOTH ZAWODZINSKI AND AMBASSADOR SPASOWSKI STRESSED
THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN U.S.-POLISH
RELATIONS, CITING SEVERAL KEY PROBLEMS.

A. TRADE/MARKET ACCESS. ZAWODZINSKI INDICATED THAT U.S.
PROTECTIONIST TENDENCIES DO NOT REALLY AFFECT POLISH
AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS, BUT HE NEVERTHELESS STRESSED THE
NEED TO EXPAND SALES TO THE U.S.

B. SCIENTIFIC/TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION. ZAWODZINSKI
NOTED THAT, BECAUSE PL-480 FINANCING IS ABOUT TO RUN OUT,
IT IS TIME TO THINK ABOUT FUTURE MEANS TO CONTINUE AND
EXPAND COOPERATION.

C. GRAIN TRADE. EVEN WITH EXPECTED FUTURE INCREASE IN
POLISH HARVESTS OF GRAIN AND FODDER, POLAND WOULD CONTINUE
TO PURCHASE SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS FROM THE U.S. CONSEQUENTLY
ZAWODZINSKI OBSERVED POLAND WOULD CONTINUE TO BE INTERES-
TED IN CREDITS, BUT HE WARNED THAT UNLESS CCC TERMS ARE
IMPROVED, THESE CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS COULD CEASE TO BE
ATTRACTIVE TO POLAND BECAUSE OF THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN
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IMPORTS AND CREDITS.

D. COOPERATION WITH PRIVATE FIRMS. BOTH ZAWODZINSKI AND
THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED AN INTENTION TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES
FOR COOPERATIVE VENTURES WITH U.S. FIRMS.

3. MR. LUERS RESPONDED OPTIMISTICALLY ON THE PROSPECT
OF PINPOINTING SPECIFIC MARKETS FOR POLISH EXPORTS. HE
EXPRESSED THE DEPARTMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN
THIS AND IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAMS
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S CAPABILITY. LUERS ALSO SYMPA-
THIZED WITH POLISH FRUSTRATION REGARDING IMPROVEMENT OF
CCC CREDIT TERMS, BUT HE REITERATED THAT CONGRESS DOES
NOT SEEM INCLINED TO CHANGE THE CURRENT CONDITIONS
WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE.

4. LUERS LAUDED IDEA OF POLAND'S SEEKING INCREASED
CONTACTS WITH PRIVATE U.S. FIRMS SUCH AS THE FMC. HE
EXPRESSED STATE'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST AS APPROPRIATE.
ZAWODZINSKI EMPHASIZED THE ANTICIPATED CONCRETE NATURE
OF THEIR TALKS WITH FMC IN CHICAGO LATER THIS WEEK.
LUERS, EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THIS, ALSO POINTED TO A

NEED FOR THE POLES TO CONTACT ANY AND ALL AMERICAN FIRMS
WHICH MIGHT HAVE AN INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE VENTURES

WITH POLAND.

5. COMMENT: THE POLES FINALLY SEEMED TO HAVE ACCEPTED
THAT THERE IS NO HOPE FOR REVISION OF THE CURRENT CCC
TERMS. WHILE THEY REMAIN INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING
IMPROVED CREDIT CONDITIONS FOR THE FUTURE, THEY ARE ALSO
EMPHASIZING THE NEED FOR A RE-VITALIZATION OF U.S.-POLISH
ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND JOINT-SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.
CHRISTOPHER

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